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Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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FIRE-CURED TOBACCO EXPORTS GAIN IN 1959

Exports of fire-cured tobacco from the Rhodesias and Nyasaland rose to 16.0 million pounds in the first 9 months of 1959 from 15.3 million exported in January-September 1958.

Shipments to the United Kingdom were smaller this year, but those to the Belgian Congo were larger. Exports to several less-important markets--the Canary Islands, Liberia, and the Netherlands--also were larger than in 1959.

FIRE-CURED TOBACCO: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, exports of fire-cured tobacco, by destination, January-September 1958 and 1959 (export weight)

Destination	January-September	
	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United Kingdom.....	6,002	4,912
Netherlands.....	1,163	1,551
Sweden.....	153	155
Sierra Leone.....	1,287	907
Belgian Congo.....	2,350	3,906
French Africa.....	1,219	957
Liberia.....	450	522
Portuguese Overseas Territories.....	742	648
Canary Islands.....	687	1,139
Other.....	1,211	1,344
Total.....	15,264	16,041

Tobacco Intelligence, London.

ISRAELI TOBACCO IMPORTS UP SLIGHTLY IN 1958

Israeli imports of unmanufactured tobacco continued to increase in 1958, reaching 1,728,000 pounds, compared with 1,658,000 in 1957.

Imported oriental tobacco from Greece--used for blending purposes--increased 78 percent to 818,000 pounds; shipments of this type from Turkey increased slightly. Imports from the United States (practically all flue-cured leaf) dropped to 342,000 pounds in 1958 from 481,000 in 1957. Unmanufactured tobacco imports from Yugoslavia and other countries fell sharply. (Continued on following page)

ISRAEL: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by countries
of origin, 1956-58

Country of origin	1956	1957	1958
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States 1/.....	432	481	342
Greece.....	302	461	818
Turkey.....	415	423	496
Yugoslavia.....	68	220	35
Other.....	260	73	37
Total.....	1,477	1,658	1,728

1/ Almost entirely flue-cured tobacco.

Central Bureau of Statistics.

CIGARETTE OUTPUT
UP IN THE SUDAN

More cigarettes will be produced in the Sudan beginning this year. The country's only cigarette factory, which began operations at Wad Medani in January 1958, with annual output of 10 million pieces, will now have capacity to turn out about 30 million yearly. This will represent about one-half of Sudan's estimated annual cigarette consumption.

MOROCCO GROWS
MORE BURLEY

The Burley tobacco crop in Morocco totaled 4.9 million pounds in 1959--up a little from the 4.7 million harvested in 1958. Planted area this year was smaller than in 1958, but yields per acre were larger because of good growing conditions.

About 4 million pounds of Burley are required by the Regie (monopoly) each year for its use in manufacturing tobacco products. Quantities produced in excess of 4 million pounds are available for export. The quality of Moroccan Burley, however, makes it difficult to sell abroad.

MEXICAN VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS TO U. S.

From December 16 through December 31, 1959, the following Mexican vegetables crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona (in thousands of pounds): tomatoes 20,488; peppers 2,374; cucumbers 1,674; snap beans 836; eggplant 244; squash 159; peas 153; and sweet corn 61. In addition to the vegetables 168,000 pounds of bananas crossed.

PAKISTAN ANNOUNCES
NEW WHEAT POLICY

Return to a system of free trading in food grains in West Pakistan is envisioned in a new wheat policy recently announced by that country's Food and Agriculture Ministry. The new policy, effective in April 1960, will give private traders full freedom to buy and sell wheat anywhere in West Pakistan and will shift responsibility for assembly and distribution from the government to private trade. The salient features of the new program are:

(1) Termination of wheat rationing in West Pakistan (including Karachi) on April 16, 1960. Annual consumption of wheat in West Pakistan is placed at 4,000,000 long tons, compared with estimated production of 3,860,000 tons.

(2) Removal of all restrictions on the movement of wheat throughout West Pakistan (including Karachi) on April 1, 1960. Ever since World War II, the government has controlled all phases of distribution in West Pakistan, including procurement and distribution at fixed prices, movement of supplies, and provision of imported wheat when required.

(3) Incentive to maintain wheat acreage and adopt higher yielding methods by assuring a floor price of 13.50 rupees per maund (\$2.07 per bushel) at which the government guarantees to buy homegrown wheat whenever growers cannot sell it at or above that level in the open market.

(4) Protection of consumer interests by maintenance of adequate reserve stocks, including 500,000 long tons of imported wheat, which the government will make available, with freedom of choice regarding quality, at 15.50 rupees per maund (\$2.37 per bushel) if market prices threaten to increase beyond that level. The Food and Agriculture Ministry considers that the difference between the floor price and the price at which the government will release supplies from its reserves will assume a reasonable margin of profit to private traders.

(5) Continued government responsibility for using its stocks of imported wheat to supply the needs of the defense forces, Azad Kashmir, and East Pakistan.

(6) Government control over operations of flour mills. This includes power to fix the percentage of wheat to be taken from government stocks for mixing with homegrown wheat bought by mills, the percentage of flour extraction, specifications for flour (atta), and wholesale and ex-mill flour (atta) prices.

(7) Establishment of a market intelligence staff to watch market trends and recommend measures to protect interests of wheat producers, dealers, and consumers.

JAPAN BECOMES NICARAGUA'S BEST CUSTOMER

During the first 6 months of 1959 Nicaragua's exports were valued at \$56.0 million and imports at \$32.1 million.

For the first time in history, Japan was Nicaragua's best customer over a half-year period. During the period, Japan took \$14.7 million worth of Nicaraguan exports; 68 percent of the purchases were cotton, 18 percent cottonseed, and 5 percent sugar. About 80 to 85 percent of Nicaragua's total exports are agricultural.

The United States was Nicaragua's second-largest market, taking \$12.2 million worth of commodities. Other major markets were West Germany (\$9.3 million), the Netherlands (\$4.9 million), and the United Kingdom (\$3.8 million).

The United States continued to be Nicaragua's main source of imports--\$17.5 million worth during the 6-month period. Other suppliers included the Netherlands West Indies (\$2.2 million), West Germany (\$2.0 million), the United Kingdom (\$1.5 million), and Japan (\$1.4 million). Only a small percentage of Nicaragua's imports are agricultural.

PAKISTAN TO INITIATE SECOND 5-YEAR PLAN

Pakistan has announced a second 5-Year Plan (1960-65) to go into effect July 1, 1960.

The overall objective of this plan is to improve the standard of living nationwide. Some specific goals are to (1) increase the national income 20 percent and per capita income 10 percent; (2) increase industrial production 50 percent; (3) accelerate projects now underway; (4) provide employment opportunities for about 3 million people; (5) reduce economic disparities between East and West Pakistan; and (6) increase foreign exchange earnings 20 percent.

The plan provides for a 20-percent increase in food grain production (from an estimated 13.2 million tons in 1959-60 to about 16 million tons by 1964-65). It is also planned to increase production of rice 22 percent, wheat 17 percent, corn 45 percent, jowar and bajra 9 percent, barley 14 percent, feed grains and pulses 11 percent, and sugarcane 35 percent.

A production goal of 2.3 million bales of cotton has been set for 1964-65, compared with the expected crop of around 1.7 million bales in 1959-60. The goal for jute is 6.8 million bales, compared with an estimated 6.0 million bales in 1959-60.

The new plan calls for an investment target of \$3,990 million--\$2,310 million from domestic sources and \$1,680 million from foreign aid, loans, and investment.

VIET-NAM PLANS CACAO EXPANSION

During 1959, Viet-Nam bought 500,000 cacao seeds from Malaya; the seeds were planted in South Viet-Nam. The government has become greatly interested in developing the cacao industry; it is planning on a substantial increase in plantings this year and is making long-term loans available to planters.

ECUADOR'S COCOA EXPORTS UP, COFFEE DOWN

In the first 11 months of 1959 Ecuador's cocoa exports were up from a year earlier, while coffee exports were down. Cocoa exports for January-November 1959 rose to 60.2 million pounds from 44.9 million pounds in the comparable period of 1958. Coffee exports, however, declined to 374,000 bags from 492,350 bags.

JAPAN PUTTING TALLOW AND LARD ON AUTOMATIC APPROVAL LIST

Japanese Government officials announced on January 12 their decision to place tallow and lard on the Automatic Approval List effective April 1, 1960.

Under the Automatic Approval System (A.A.) imports listed for automatic approval are licensed without a value limit. The only limit is the total A.A. allocation. In contrast, the Foreign Exchange Allocation System (F.A.) restricts the amounts of imports by quantity as well as by source of imports. Beef tallow from Australia and New Zealand is imported under the A.A. system, while tallow from the United States is imported under the F.A. system. The placing of tallow and lard on the Automatic Approval List will improve the U.S. competitive position for both of these products.

Japan is one of the most important commercial markets for U.S. tallow. Of the 237 million pounds imported by Japan in the January-September period of 1959, 187 million pounds or 80 percent was obtained from the United States. Australia supplied 34 million pounds, and New Zealand 8 million.

During July-September 1959 Japan imported 19.5 million pounds of lard, most of it from the Netherlands. Japanese importers are now considering the possibility of importing U.S. lard in bulk form. As soon as U.S. lard is placed under the A.A. system, the United States will be in a position to supply a major part of Japan's lard imports.

UAR AND SUDAN SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT

The United Arab Republic and Sudan recently signed a 1-year trade agreement that provides for a volume of trade valued at \$31.6 million between the two countries. The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 1959; it is renewable. A joint committee will implement it.

Under the agreement, neither country may reexport goods without the consent of the original exporting country. The rate of exchange between the Egyptian and the Sudanese pound will be based on the par value established by the International Monetary Fund.

In addition to industrial goods, the UAR's exports to Sudan will include rice (\$600,000), oranges and other fruit (\$300,000), and some 40,000 tons of sugar. Exports from Sudan to the UAR will include livestock (\$5.7 million), pulses (\$2.9 million), corn (\$2 million), sesame and hides (\$1.1 million each), peanuts and cottonseed (\$300,000 each), cottonseed oil (\$100,000) and other goods worth \$700,000.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES UP
SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER

Average prices of most types of Dominion wools in December were slightly above November levels. The coarser types rose more sharply than fine wools and were at the highest level since October 1957.

Wool prices generally trended upward in 1959, and the December averages were about one-third above the low levels a year earlier. Prices have been boosted by the sharp recovery in wool consumption in the major consuming countries following the recession of 1958.

Quality	1958	1959					
	Dec.	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
70's.....	.92	1.24	1.20	1.18	1.18	1.19	
64's.....	.86	1.19	1.14	1.11	1.11	1.13	
60's.....	.81	1.13	1.09	1.05	1.04	1.06	
58's.....	.78	1.05	1.02	.99	.99	.99	
56's.....	.77	.95	1/ .90	.92	.92	.95	
50's.....	.65	.86	1/ .84	.85	.85	.89	
48's.....	.64	.84	1/ .82	.83	.83	.86	
46's.....	.63	.83	1/ .81	.80	.80	.84	

1/ London sales only.

New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

PHILIPPINE COPRA DECEMBER EXPORTS: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Philippine copra exports in December included 11,850 long tons to "Europe unspecified". (See Foreign Crops and Markets 1-18-60.) Of this total 6,000 tons went to Italy, 1,850 tons to the Netherlands and 4,000 tons to Sweden.

URUGUAY GETS LOAN FOR LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

The World Bank has loaned Uruguay \$7 million to finance a program of livestock and pasture improvement.

The livestock industry is the most important segment of Uruguay's economy, producing about 60 percent of the value of total agricultural output, and 80 percent of all exports.

The new program will provide technical and financial assistance for a 3-year period to producers on a pilot group of 600 farms with a combined area of about 1.5 million acres. In 3 years, the increased output of meat and other pastoral products should add \$3 to \$4 million to Uruguay's exports. The program provides for improvement of pastures and better control of livestock diseases.

Total cost of the 3-year program is estimated at \$11 million; participating farmers will pay the equivalent of about \$3.5 million, and the remainder will come from the World Bank loan, supplemented by other resources to be provided by the Uruguayan Government.

NEW ZEALAND MEAT SHIPMENTS IN JANUARY

The New Zealand Meat Producers Board has announced that 4 vessels are scheduled to sail for the United States in January with 4,800 long tons of meat.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination	Meat cargo
			<u>Long tons</u>
Oronsay.....	January 2	West Coast	100
Argentinean Reefer.....	do. 21	do.	1,200
Mariposa.....	do. 23	do.	200
Napier Star.....	do. 30	East Coast	3,300

CANADIAN HOG PRODUCTION IN 1959 HIGHEST IN RECENT YEARS

According to Canadian Department of Agriculture statistics, 33 percent more hogs were graded in 1959 than during the previous year. About 8.6 million hogs were marketed last year--an increase of 2.1 million head over 1958. This approaches the record of nearly 8.9 million head established in 1944.

However, declining prices and uncertainties regarding the price-support program caused smaller farrowings during the last half of 1959. Canadian Department of Agriculture economists now predict a 4 to 5-percent decrease in hog marketings during the first quarter of 1960, although there was a sharp increase in hog marketings the first week in January, prior to the change in the price-support method (see Foreign Crops and Market, November 9, 1959).

BELGIUM PROHIBITS EXPANSION IN FLOUR-MILLING CAPACITY

Belgium's Padlock Law, in effect from 1945 to 1948, was recently reestablished. Under this law the country's industrial flour mills are prohibited from adding to installations for a period of 5 years ending December 15, 1964. In addition, these mills must raise money by assessment for the purpose of retiring small mills.

PERU EXTENDS DUTY EXEMPTION ON WHEAT IMPORTS

By a decree of December 24, 1959, Peru extended its duty exemption on wheat imports through December 31, 1960. The measure is intended to prevent increases in local wheat and flour prices due to depreciation in the value of the Peruvian sol.

The duty exemption has been in effect since March 17, 1958. Wheat imports are exempt not only from import duty but also from other import charges, including consular fees. Peru uses about 460,000 metric tons annually; about 75 percent is imported, mainly from the United States and Canada.

BELGIUM SUBSIDIZES FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

A Belgian decree of December 24, 1959, provides for subsidy payments to farmers to stimulate feed grain production. The payments will be made to all farmers having more than 1 hectare (2,471 acres) under cultivation. Amount of the payment will be based on (1) number of livestock on the farm, (2) quantity of feed consumed by the livestock, and (3) production of feed grains on the farm.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S 1959-60
WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE ANNOUNCED

The Union of South Africa's guaranteed producer prices for wheat during that country's 1959-60 marketing season (November-October) have been announced as follows (shillings per 200-pound bag, with dollar-per-bushel equivalents):

Grade	Class A		Class B		Class C		Class D	
	Per bag	Per bu.	Per bag	Per bu.	Per bag	Per bu.	Per bag	Per bu.
No. 1.....	55s.10d.	\$2.35	54s.10d.	\$2.30	54s.4d.	\$2.28	51s.10d.	\$2.18
No. 2.....	55s.2d.	2.32	54s.2d.	2.28	53s.8d.	2.25	51s.2d.	2.15
No. 3.....	53s.4d.	2.24	52s.4d.	2.20	51s.10d.	2.18	49s.4d.	2.07
No. 4.....	--	--	49s.2d.	2.07	48s.8d.	2.04	46s.2d.	1.94
No. 5.....	--	--	--	--	45s.	1.89	42s.6d.	1.79
No. 6.....	--	--	--	--	40s.7d.	1.70	38s.1d.	1.60

The above prices--representing an increase of 11d. per bag (3.9 cents per bushel) from the 1958-59 support--are the basic prices laid down by the Union's Wheat Board and are subject to the following deductions: 1s. 3d. (17.5 cents) per bag as a commission by the Wheat Board, 1d. (1.2 cents) per bag as a special levy by the board for research purposes. For the 1959-60 corn support price see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 14, 1959.

CUBA INCREASES BEEF EXPORTS
AS CATTLE SLAUGHTER RISES

Increased cattle marketings and relatively low cattle prices made it possible for Cuba to increase beef exports last year.

Expropriation of many cattle ranches by the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) has caused increased cattle marketings, and thus greater slaughter and beef production. INRA now limits the size of Cuban cattle ranches to about 1,670 acres (50 caballerias). Expropriated cattle ranches and cattle have been united into INRA cattle cooperatives.

More extensive grading of beef and more favorable export prices in the second half of 1959 also tended to facilitate and increase export sales. Well over 90 percent of the beef graded during this period was equivalent to U.S. Standard and Good grades.

Exports of beef to the United States and Puerto Rico during January-November 1959 totaled 2.1 million pounds, compared with only 136,000 during all of 1958. On November 18, 1959, INRA announced the sale of 942 carcasses to Venezuela and since has announced plans to export 5,000 pounds of hamburger and 5,000 pounds of beefsteak.

U.S. IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS UP IN 1959

U.S. imports of meat set a new record in 1959 but imports of cattle were sharply lower than in 1958. Imports of wool, variety meats, and hides and skins increased sharply but entries of sausage casings dropped 30 percent.

Red meat imports during January-November totaled 875 million pounds, 18 percent above a year earlier. Pork imports were about equal to 1958 but imports of other types showed relatively large percentage gains.

Total red meat imports reached a peak of 106 million pounds during September 1959, but dropped sharply in October (65 million) and November (52 million). The sharp increase in the first 9 months of 1959 was due to short supplies and favorable U.S. prices. The November total was 24 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest for any month since March 1958. The October-November decline was mostly in boneless beef from Australia and New Zealand, where slaughter is seasonally small during their late winter and spring. The decline also coincided with seasonally large marketings of cows and other grass fat cattle in the United States. Imports of boneless beef from all countries in November totaled 29 million pounds, compared with the September peak of 69 million. Lamb and mutton imports in November dropped substantially from October.

U.S. cattle imports declined markedly during 1959 from the record total of 1958. Imports from both Mexico and Canada were down. Lower imports reflected increased domestic marketings of feeders and stockers as calf and steer numbers on farms increased.

Variety meat imports increased sharply during 1959 but the United States still remained a large net exporter of these products. Larger supplies from New Zealand and Australia offset smaller imports from Canada. Higher U.S. prices for beef variety meats attracted imports from Australia and New Zealand while the drop in pork prices caused a decline in U.S. trade with Canada.

Imports of wool during 1959 increased substantially, reflecting increased mill activity. However, November imports were below a year earlier.

Relatively large imports of hides and skins in 1959 coincided with a sharp revival in shoe manufacture, and higher U.S. prices. Cattle hide entries were the largest since 1952, and calf and kip the largest since 1953. Imports of sheep and lamb skins were the largest since 1945, and goat and kid skin imports were the biggest since 1956. However, the United States continued to be a large net exporter of cattle hides. Traditionally it has been a large net importer of sheep and goat skins.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: U.S. imports of selected items, November and January-November 1958 and 1959, with percentage change

(Product weight basis)

Commodity	November			January-November		
	1958	1959	Percentage change	1958	1959	Percentage change
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Red meats:						
Beef and veal.....	38,181	37,805	-1	434,058	566,862	+31
Pork.....	16,930	11,874	-30	163,833	161,462	-1
Mutton.....	1,253	1,782	+42	15,949	42,329	+165
Lamb.....	342	331	-3	6,609	8,963	+36
Miscellaneous <u>1/</u>	12,247	679	-94	122,858	95,061	-23
Total red meats....	68,953	52,471	-24	743,307	874,677	+18
Variety meats.....	187	327	+75	1,805	2,127	+19
Sausage casings:						
Sheep and goat.....	237	290	+22	4,484	4,091	-9
Other natural.....	967	920	-5	10,337	6,338	-39
Wool (clean basis)						
Dutiable.....	6,694	5,779	-14	58,226	90,984	+56
Duty-free.....	13,892	8,616	-38	107,016	180,964	+69
Total wool.....	20,586	14,395	-30	165,242	271,948	+65
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>		<u>pieces</u>	<u>pieces</u>	
Hides and skins:						
Cattle.....	34	72	+112	321	984	+207
Calf and kip.....	59	113	+92	789	1,443	+83
Sheep and lamb.....	1,377	1,085	-21	22,959	31,062	+35
Goat and kid.....	1,174	1,871	+59	17,099	23,609	+38
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>		<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	
Live cattle <u>2/</u>	145	60	-58	1,030	645	-37

1/ "Other meat, canned, prepared, or preserved", mostly salted boneless beef from South America.
2/ Includes cattle for breeding.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

CHILE BUYS 2,000 ARGENTINE BREEDING CATTLE

A Chilean buying commission recently returned from Argentina after signing contracts for the purchase of 2,000 head of cattle.

This was the first purchase under the Chilean Government's program covering the importation of 50,000 head over the next 3 years under Argentine-Chilean trade agreements. The Chilean purchase was part of an overall program designed to develop that country's livestock and meat industry. The cattle were bought in Argentina because prices were more competitive and transportation was cheaper. The 2,000 head were purchased for farmers in central and southern Chile.

It is believed that these purchases may stimulate Chilean demand for U.S. bulls.

"SELF-SERVICE" ON UPTREND IN WEST GERMANY

According to the West German "Self-Service Institute," the trend toward self-service in the food retail trade continued during 1959.

Approximately 16,000 self-service stores in the Federal Republic handled 25 percent of all retail food sales. Independent stores, not belonging to any chain, increased their share in total self-service food sales from 39 to 50 percent.

MEXICAN CROPS HIT HARD BY RAIN AND SNOW

River and irrigation canal overflow, caused by prolonged rain and mountain snow, has caused extensive floods in northern Sinaloa and southern Sonora, in Mexico. These states are large cotton, wheat, and rice growers.

Crop damage has been extensive. The bean crop has been almost totally destroyed. Unharvested rice is almost a total loss, and plantings of winter vegetables have been seriously damaged. Approximately 60 percent of the cotton must be reseeded, and sugar losses are heavy because the sugar content has been lowered.

BURMA'S SALES OF NEW-CROP RICE AT HIGH LEVEL

Sales contracts for Burma's 1959-60 rice crop concluded by December 28, 1959, totaled 1,451,000 long tons (32.5 million cwt.) of milled rice. Quantities and destinations of the contracts entered into by the State Agricultural Marketing Board, and prospective sales as of December 28, were as follows:

Destination	Sales			
	Firm	Barter	Possible	Prospective total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>long tons</u>	<u>long tons</u>	<u>long tons</u>	<u>long tons</u>
Ceylon.....	300	--	--	300
India.....	350	--	--	350
Indonesia.....	<u>1/</u> 500	--	150	650
Israel.....	--	--	6	6
Japan.....	30	--	--	30
Malaya.....	--	--	30	30
Maldives.....	--	--	5 to 7	5 to 7
Mauritius.....	40	--	10	50
Pakistan.....	100	--	200	300
Poland.....	30	--	--	30
Ryukyus.....	31	--	--	31
Seychelles.....	--	--	3	3
Sierra Leone.....	--	--	25	25
Singapore.....	--	--	10	10
U.S.S.R.	--	<u>2/</u> 20	--	20
Yugoslavia.....	--	50	--	50
Total.....	1,381	70	440	1,891

1/ At £32 sterling per ton (about \$4.00 per 100 pounds) for the basic quality, Ngasein SMS 42-percent broken; pro rata for higher qualities.

2/ Unshipped balance of 50,000 tons contracted from the 1958-59 crop, but to be of the 1959-60 crop.

Compiled from official figures.

RICE CROP OF BRITISH HONDURAS HIT BY HOJA BLANCA

The Hoja Blanca (White Leaf) virus disease has broken out in the rice area of the Belize District, British Honduras, according to the Overseas Review (London). Losses have been severe on the 1,200 acres planted in the district. One company lost at least 185 acres out of 300 acres planted this year.

The disease has not yet appeared in the rice areas in the southern district of Toledo. As a preventive measure, no rice or grass plants are being allowed to come into the district. Efforts are being made to obtain an experienced agronomist for a short period to initiate testing of disease-resistant varieties.

U.S. COARSE GRAIN EXPORTS CONTINUE AT HIGH RATE

The United States exported 6.9 million short tons of coarse grains from July through December 1959. This was 16 percent more than exports for the same period in 1958, and an increase of nearly 1 million tons.

Corn exports for the 6-month period in 1959 totaled 3,254,000 tons, compared with 2,760,000 tons in 1958. Barley exports of 1,575,000 tons were slightly less than the comparable 1958 exports of 1,592,000 tons. Exports of oats at 420,000 tons were more than double the 1958 figure of 195,000 tons. Grain sorghum exports for the 6 months were 1,611,000 tons, an increase of 20 percent from exports of 1,345,000 tons a year earlier.

Last summer's European drought, a continuing trend to increase live-stock numbers, and changing feeding practices have all contributed to stronger demand in Western Europe for U.S. feed grains. At the turn of the year, however, shipments slowed, perhaps indicating an early arrival of the seasonal decline in exports.

In 1958-59, U. S. coarse grain exports were 11,500,000 short tons; products added 500,000 tons, for a total of 12 million.

CANADIAN WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS UP IN JULY-NOVEMBER

Canadian wheat and flour exports during July-November 1959 were 128 million bushels, approximately 3 percent higher than in the first 5 months of 1958-59. Wheat exports were 112.6 million bushels and flour exports were 15.7 million bushels, compared with 109.4 and 14.8 million bushels, respectively, a year earlier.

Substantial reductions in wheat exports to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were more than offset by gains in exports to Italy, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continued to be the principal market for Canadian flour. Slight reductions in exports to Venezuela and the Philippines were counterbalanced by larger shipments to the British West Indies, Ceylon, Japan, and small buyers in Africa.

Preliminary estimates for December indicate that total wheat and flour exports during the first 6 months (July-December) of 1959-60 may go well above the 148 million bushels exported during the first half of 1958-59. During the first 5 months of the 1959-60 Canadian marketing year, which began in August exports are expected to be about 7 percent higher than the 123 million bushels exported a year earlier.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports by country of destination,
July-November 1958 and July-November 1959

Destination	July-November 1958			July-November 1959		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	1,215	641	1,856	500	584	1,084
British West Indies:	4	2,058	2,062	1	2,168	2,169
Central America ...:	85	681	766	56	849	905
Colombia	--	181	181	808	2	810
Cuba	--	170	170	1	123	124
Peru	598	12	610	2,334	4	2,338
Venezuela	1,145	663	1,808	1,785	2	1,787
Others	207	681	888	427	545	972
Total	3,254	5,087	8,341	5,912	4,277	10,189
Europe:						
Austria	1,665	--	1,665	1,370	--	1,370
Belgium-Luxembourg :	5,538	165	5,703	5,758	21	5,779
Germany, West	13,388	--	13,388	14,453	--	14,453
Ireland	1,871	--	1,871	795	--	795
Italy	445	1	446	2,105	--	2,105
Netherlands	8,480	4	8,484	4,584	3	4,587
Norway	1,693	--	1,693	1,304	--	1,304
Switzerland	3,650	--	3,650	2,786	--	2,786
United Kingdom:	39,801	5,533	45,334	36,440	5,451	41,891
Others	704	66	770	2,378	52	2,430
Total	77,235	5,769	83,004	71,973	5,527	77,500
Asia:						
Ceylon	--	398	398	--	772	772
China, Mainland ...:	1,643	--	1,643	--	--	--
India	6,124	2	6,126	5,772	--	5,772
Iraq	--	--	--	2,033	--	2,033
Japan	17,692	172	17,864	17,218	481	17,699
Pakistan	709	--	709	2,721	--	2,721
Philippines	383	1,938	2,321	541	1,745	2,286
Others	1,021	729	1,750	1,461	1,317	2,778
Total	27,572	3,239	30,811	29,746	4,315	34,061
Africa:						
Union of So. Africa:	--	--	--	2,750	--	2,750
Others	90	748	838	1,209	1,548	2,757
Total	90	748	838	3,959	1,548	5,507
Oceania	--	5	5	--	9	9
Unspecified 2/	1,238	--	1,238	1,029	--	1,029
World total	109,389	14,848	124,237	112,619	15,676	128,295

1/ Grain equivalent. 2/ Includes seed wheat.

Source: Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

CUBA'S RICE CROP LARGER THAN IN 1958-59

Cuba's rice crop in 1959-60 is expected to be at least 10 percent larger than in 1958-59, assuming that the spring crop now being planted is as large as last season's. Acreage of the 1959 fall crop was reported to have exceeded that a year earlier, and weather was generally favorable.

In the latter part of 1959, the Cuban Rice Stabilization Administration concluded a national rice census. Both acreage and production figures obtained were moderately above previous estimates.

RICE (rough): Cuban acreage and production, by province, 1958-59

Province	Number of growers	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production
		<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>
Pinar del Rio:				
Fall crop		32	1,766	565
Spring crop		30	1,523	457
Total	304	61	1,675	1,022
Habana:				
Fall crop		11	2,555	281
Spring crop		0	--	0
Total	1,253	11	2,555	281
Matanzas:				
Fall crop		15	1,660	249
Spring crop		1/	--	2
Total	902	15	1,673	251
Las Villas:				
Fall crop		44	1,355	5296
Spring crop		1/	--	1
Total	5,102	44	1,357	597
Camaguey:				
Fall crop		45	2,171	977
Spring crop		4	2,625	105
Total	1,537	49	2,208	1,082
Oriente:				
Fall crop		89	1,935	1,722
Spring crop		1	1,700	17
Total	402	90	1,932	1,739
All provinces:				
Fall crop		236	1,860	4,390
Spring crop		35	1,663	582
Total	9,500	271	1,8345	4,972

1/ Less than 500 acres.

National rice census of Rice Stabilization Administration.

DUTCH LIFT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON SOME AGRICULTURAL ITEMS

On January 1, 1960, the Netherlands dropped import restrictions on 12 commodities or commodity groups. Among the liberalized products are seed rye; rice, husked, glazed or not, fully polished, not broken; margarine and certain other edible fats; beet sugar, cane sugar, invert sugar, and artificial honey.

INDIA'S RICE ACREAGE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

India's first estimate of rice acreage in 1959-60 (planted up to October 1 only) is 73,381,000 acres, compared with the corresponding estimate of 72,788,000 acres in 1958-59, according to the All-India First Estimate of Rice. For 1957-58, the corresponding acreage was 68,976,000 acres, and for the 5-year period ended 1956-57, the average was 66,035,000 acres.

The largest increases in this season's first estimate were in West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, where record acreages were planted. The acreage included in the first estimate usually comprises around 85 percent of India's annual rice acreage.

RICE: India's first estimate of planted acreage, 1959-60 (as of October 1, 1959), compared with the corresponding adjusted estimate for 1958-59

State	1958-59 adjusted first estimate	1959-60 first estimate	Increase or decrease
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>
Andhra Pradesh.....	4,934	5,059	+125
Assam.....	4,316	4,368	+52
Bihar.....	12,526	12,079	-447
Bombay.....	4,170	4,178	+8
Kerala.....	1,726	1,697	-29
Madhya Pradesh.....	9,756	9,883	+127
Madras.....	1,979	1,990	+11
Mysore.....	2,017	2,025	+8
Orissa.....	9,331	9,670	+339
Uttar Pradesh.....	10,519	10,187	-332
West Bengal.....	9,918	10,536	+618
Others.....	1,596	1,709	+113
Total.....	72,788	73,381	+593

Source: All-India First Estimate of Rice 1959-60 December 18, 1959.

WINTER VEGETABLES DAMAGED ON WEST COAST OF MEXICO

Floods in Mexico have caused extensive damage to winter vegetables in the Los Mochis and Navajoa areas. In the Culiacan Valley there appears to be some damage from excessive rains. Quantitative estimates on losses are not available, but all north-south rail, highway, telegraph, and telephone services have been interrupted.

ARGENTINA GAINING AS A GRAIN SORGHUMS EXPORTER

Argentina's exports of grain sorghums increased from 133,000 metric tons (5.2 million bushels) in 1956-57 to 271,500 tons (10.7 million bushels) in 1957-58. These quantities are 14 percent and 17.5 percent, respectively, of the world total grain sorghum imports of those years. The U.S. shares were 77 and 70 percent.

Argentina's growing importance as a grain sorghums exporter is in part the result of increasing production of these grains in that country in recent years. Production of red sorghum totaled only about 41,000 metric tons (1.6 million bushels) in 1953-54, but for 1958-59 it is estimated close to 900,000 tons (35.4 million bushels) (Production may not be quite that large, however, because of rain damage at harvest time.)

This 22-fold increase is partly due to an expansion in Argentina's red sorghum area from 59,250 hectares (146,400 acres) in 1953-54 to 583,000 hectares (1,440,600 acres) in 1958-59. No official estimates of the 1959-60 acreage and production are as yet available but further increases are expected.

Red sorghum is the most important type of sorghum grown in Argentina. However, Argentine production of other types has also been increasing. For example, total output of black and sweet sorghums and of Sudan rose from 165,700 tons (6.5 million bushels) in 1956-57 to 266,400 tons (10.5 million bushels) in 1958-59.

U.S. production of sorghums has also been rising but not so rapidly. It totaled 115.7 million bushels in 1953 and 610.4 million bushels in 1958, a slightly greater than 5-fold increase. In 1959 it was down to 579.2 million. If Argentina's red sorghum production should continue to increase at the 1953-58 rate, that country may continue to increase its share of the world's export market for sorghums.

INDIA'S COTTON IMPORT
REQUIREMENTS INCREASE

Rising cotton consumption, coupled with smaller cotton production and stocks, will necessitate larger cotton imports into India during the 1959-60 season (August-July). As of mid-December, import quotas totaling an equivalent of 392,000 bales (500 pounds gross) had already been allowed (Foreign Crops and Markets, December 28, 1959).

Government sources have indicated that total import requirements may reach about 700,000 bales this season. However, Indian mill owners hope for even larger imports of around 825,000 bales. Imports in 1958-59 totaled 402,000 bales.

Cotton consumption in India has picked up in recent months. Stocks of finished goods have been reduced considerably as cloth offtake has improved in both domestic and export markets. Indian mills used 704,000 bales of cotton during the first 2 months (August-September) of this season, compared with 686,000 bales in the corresponding months a year earlier. Total consumption (including non-mill) in 1959-60, is expected to be about 4,500,000 bales, compared with 4,395,000 in 1958-59, and 4,340,000 in 1957-58. Consumption in homes and nonmill industries, including Khadi Board and other schemes, is estimated at an annual rate of about 260,000 bales.

India's 1959-60 cotton crop is estimated at about 3,900,000 bales. This is 5 percent below last year's crop of 4,100,000 bales, and marks the second decline from the record crop of 4,425,000 bales in 1957-58. There has been some flood damage in the important cotton-producing state of Bombay and other areas. The second official estimate of acreage indicates a slight decline from last season.

Cotton stocks at the beginning of this season, at an estimated 1,810,000 bales, were down 11 percent from the 2,025,000 bales held a year earlier.

Cotton prices on the Bombay market have pressed the official ceilings for several weeks, reflecting tightening supplies. Spot quotations at Bombay on December 24, excluding export taxes, were: Broach Vijay, Fine 13/16-inch, 25.21 U. S. cents per pound; Jarilla, Fine, 25/32-inch, 21.88 cents; and Bengal Desi, Fine 17.88 cents per pound.

The government recently announced the following measures designed to ease the mounting pressure on prices: (1) cotton from the current crop will be allocated separately to mills on the basis of their consumption of Indian cotton in 1958-59; (2) mills producing yarn must buy only baled lint cotton and no seed cotton; and (3) to expedite movement of the current crop into the market, cotton grown in Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh must be ginned by February 15, 1960, and in certain areas of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh ginnings must be completed by March 31.

Exports of Indian cotton are likely to drop sharply from the 314,000 bales shipped in 1958-59. Approximately 122,000 bales of Bengal Desi cotton had been released for export by late November.

CANADA USES LESS COTTON IN DECEMBER

Canadian cotton consumption, based on the number of bales opened by mills, was 27,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December. This was 4 percent below the 28,000 bales opened in both November 1959 and December 1958.

Cotton consumption in the first 5 months of the current season (August-December) amounted to 143,000 bales--6 percent below the 152,000 bales opened in the corresponding months a year earlier.

ACTIVITY INCREASES IN BELGIAN COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Increased activity in the Belgian textile industry continues. Demand for cotton goods is strong, and mills have booked orders well into 1960.

Consumption of 68,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in the first 2 months (August-September) of 1959-60 was 19 percent above the 57,000 bales used in the same months a year earlier. According to preliminary estimates, total consumption in 1959-60 may reach about 400,000 bales, compared with 375,000 bales last season, and 372,000 in 1957-58.

Cotton imports into Belgium have also continued to rise this season. Statistics for August-September 1959 show imports of 57,000 bales, an increase of 24 percent from 46,000 bales in August-September 1958. Total imports are expected to exceed consumption this season, as some replenishment of stocks is likely.

Imports of U. S. cotton, at 8,000 bales during August-September 1959, were down from 13,000 bales a year earlier due largely to delayed movement from the United States early this season. Imports from this source have picked up considerably since September and the U. S. share of the Belgian market probably will be 50 percent or more this season, compared with 20 percent in 1958-59 when imports of foreign growths increased sharply. Prices of U. S. and foreign growths are competitive, U. S. supplies are ample, and exportable supplies outside the United States are smaller.

Quantities imported from principal sources other than the United States during August-September 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Belgian Congo 11,000 bales (9,000); Brazil 9,000 (2,000); Mexico 5,000 (6,000); U.S.S.R. 4,000 (921); and Sudan 4,000 (176).

Imports totaled 374,000 bales in 1958-59, compared with 368,000 bales in 1957-58. Imports of U. S. cotton dropped from 194,000 bales in 1957-58 to 74,000 bales last season. Cotton stocks on September 30, 1959, were estimated at around 105,000 bales--down 12 percent from about 120,000 bales held a year earlier.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON UP THIS SEASON

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through U. S. ports were 228,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the first 2 months (August-September) of the 1959-60 season. They were up 38 percent from 165,000 bales in the corresponding 1958-59 period.

Principal destinations in August-September 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 48,000 bales (2,000); France 40,000 (1,000); West Germany 35,000 (48,000); Italy 19,000 (29,000); United Kingdom 18,000 (27,000); Netherlands 16,000 (8,000); Switzerland 11,000 (10,000); and Belgium 10,000 (15,000).

Transshipments in September 1959 were 99,000 bales, compared with 129,000 bales in August, and 84,000 in September 1958. U. S. ports through which most of the September 1959 transshipments moved, were: Brownsville 93,000 bales; Oakland 1,000; San Francisco 1,000; Detroit 1,000; Los Angeles 1,000; and San Diego 1,000.

NEW ITALIAN LIBERALIZATION LIST PUBLISHED

The Italian Government on January 15 announced the removal of quantitative restrictions on approximately 200 additional items.

This is the first liberalization since the recent General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meetings in Tokyo at which it was noted that Italy was no longer entitled to continue quantitative restrictions on balance-of-payments grounds and should remove remaining restrictions as rapidly as possible.

Among the newly liberalized products are all live animals; poultry liver; butter; sweetened eggs and egg yolks (all egg items are now liberalized); guts, bladders, and stomachs of animals; all live plants and flowers; dry legumes; stone fruit; berries; dried prunes; coffee, tea, and spices; buckwheat, millet, canary grass, and other minor grains (not including sorghums); malt and malt extract; hops; pectin; wool fats, including lanolin; meat extracts; prepared soups; other food products not elsewhere specified (including cake mixes, prepared cereals, ice-cream mixes, puddings, etc.).

Tobacco was also liberalized, but this has little significance since Italy has a tobacco monopoly.

Though the list of agricultural items appears lengthy, many farm products for which the United States might find a good market in Italy are not on it--e.g., feed grains, soybeans and soybean oil, meat, poultry meat, honey, and canned fruit.

TURKEY'S 1959 RAISIN PACK ESTIMATE INCREASED

The 1959 Turkish raisin pack is now estimated at 110,000 short tons; it was forecast earlier at 90,000 tons. The larger figure is more in line with Turkish trade estimates. Exports from the 1959 pack are expected to be about 86,000 tons; by January 1, 73,000 tons had already been shipped.

Grower prices are remaining firm and apparently Turkish packers cannot reduce processing margins, particularly of the higher grades, to meet price cuts by foreign competitors. In the first week of January raisin prices, f.o.b. Izmir, were reported to be 10.7 to 10.9 cents per pound for number 9 grade and 11.6 cents for number 10 grade.

SMALLER ITALIAN DRIED FIG PACK ESTIMATED FOR 1959

Italy's 1959 commercial dried fig pack is estimated at 40,000 short tons, down 9,000 tons from the 1958 pack. Production estimates from the commercial regions are: Campania 6,000 tons, Calabria, 11,000 tons, and Puglia 23,000 tons. The quality of the 1959 pack is reported to be generally poor, with many of the dried figs going into industrial use.

Wholesale prices for the edible, packaged dried figs in December 1959 were well above those of the previous year, 8.8 cents per pound compared with 5.2 cents. Industrial fig prices were reported to be lower in December 1959 than a year earlier.

Export statistics are not yet available for the 1959 pack, but exports are expected to be smaller than last season because of the lower quality and smaller pack. Shipments to the United States are forecast at only 275 to 325 short tons. Italy exported 6,100 tons of dried figs during the 1958-59 marketing season. Shipments by destination were: United States, 466 tons; Austria, 2,711 tons; France, 2,093 tons; West Germany, 827 tons; and 4 tons to other countries.

CEYLON'S COPRA AND COCONUT OIL EXPORTS UP SHARPLY IN FIRST 3 QUARTERS OF 1959

Ceylon's copra and coconut oil exports of 71,236 long tons, oil basis, in January-September 1959 were up nearly 85 percent from those of the first 3 quarters of 1958. Copra shipments at 31,701 tons were up two-thirds, while coconut oil exports at 51,264 tons rose 90 percent.

Desiccated coconut shipments, totaling 37,809 long tons, declined about 10 percent from the level of exports in the first 9 months of 1958.

Shipments of fresh coconuts in January-September 1959 again were inconsequential, totaling about 500.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Ceylon, exports by country of destination
average 1935-39, annual 1958 and January-September 1958 and 1959

Continent and country of destination	COPRA					COCONUT OIL				
	Average :		January-September :		Average :	1958 :		January-September :		1958 :
	1935-39 :	1958 :	1935-39 :	1958 :		Long :	Long :	1935-39 :	1958 :	
	Long :	Long :	Long :	Long :		tons :	tons :	Long :	Long :	tons :
	tons :	tons :	tons :	tons :				tons :	tons :	
North America:										
Canada.....	---	---	---	---	8,523 :	---	5,700 :	3,725 :	7,512 :	
Other.....	1 :	---	---	---	2,119 :	---	2,255 :	1,505 :	1,249 :	
Total.....	1 :	---	---	---	10,642 :	---	7,955 :	5,230 :	8,761 :	
South America.....	---	---	---	---	1,433 :	---	310 :	257 :	210 :	
Europe:										
Denmark.....	1,605 :	---	---	---	35 :	---	---	---	---	
France.....	354 :	---	---	---	347 :	---	---	---	---	
Germany, West.....	2/ 1,482 :	---	---	---	2/ 1,200 :	---	2,276 :	---	6,163 :	
Greece.....	1,526 :	---	---	---	120 :	---	---	---	---	
Italy.....	6,541 :	---	---	---	1,724 :	---	7,781 :	4,438 :	12,055 :	
Netherlands.....	1,929 :	---	---	---	1,976 :	---	5,172 :	2,726 :	7,917 :	
Poland.....	126 :	---	---	---	8 :	---	1,504 :	1,504 :	---	
Sweden.....	---	---	---	---	3,573 :	---	---	---	---	
Switzerland.....	---	---	---	---	84 :	---	410 :	195 :	---	
United Kingdom.....	420 :	---	---	---	14,160 :	---	2,240 :	1,478 :	2,940 :	
Other.....	2,518 :	1 :	---	---	3,930 :	---	3/ 105 :	3/ 55 :	4/ 2,953 :	
Total.....	16,501 :	501 :	---	---	27,157 :	---	19,488 :	10,396 :	32,028 :	
Africa:										
Egypt.....	425 :	---	---	---	2,433 :	---	1,296 :	1,187 :	493 :	
Union of South Africa.....	---	---	---	---	2,597 :	---	330 :	76 :	104 :	
Other.....	6 :	---	---	---	1,354 :	---	2,226 :	1,391 :	1,000 :	
Total.....	431 :	---	---	---	6,384 :	---	3,852 :	2,654 :	1,597 :	
Asia:										
Cyprus.....	---	---	---	---	146 :	---	---	---	---	
India.....	5/42,549 :	26,654 :	18,580 :	28,283 :	5/10,710 :	---	3,169 :	2,984 :	1,826 :	
Iran.....	---	126 :	46 :	95 :	6 :	---	2,958 :	2,379 :	2,902 :	
Iraq.....	20 :	115 :	99 :	29 :	315 :	---	250 :	200 :	100 :	
Israel.....	---	---	---	---	15 :	---	---	---	---	
Pakistan.....	5/ :	208 :	98 :	829 :	5/ :	---	3,391 :	2,643 :	2,562 :	
Syria.....	60 :	---	---	---	164 :	---	10 :	5 :	415 :	
Other.....	365 :	96 :	31 :	6/ 2,465 :	1,885 :	7/ 2,963 :	142 :	8/ 863 :	---	
Total.....	42,994 :	27,199 :	18,854 :	31,701 :	13,241 :	---	12,731 :	8,353 :	8,668 :	
Oceania.....	---	---	---	---	154 :	---	---	---	---	
Grand total.....	59,927 :	27,700 :	18,855 :	31,701 :	9/59,013 :	---	44,336 :	26,890 :	51,264 :	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ All to Finland. 4/ 15 tons to Finland, 389 tons to Belgium, 2249 tons to Lithuania and 300 tons to U.S.S.R. 5/ Pakistan included with India. 6/ Includes 2,367 tons to Mainland China. 7/ Includes 2,800 tons to Mainland China. 8/ Includes 200 tons to Mainland China. 9/ Includes 2 tons to ships' stores.

Compiled from official sources.

AUSTRALIA EXPECTS RECORD FLAXSEED OUTPUT

Australia's 1959-60 flaxseed crop, harvested during November-January, is expected to total a record 1.2 million bushels from 113,800 acres, compared with 400,000 bushels and 35,444 acres in 1958-59. Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales produce the bulk of the crop.

As a result of the larger crop, import requirements for linseed oil during the second half of 1960 will be much smaller than in recent years--probably about 4,500 short tons, compared with annual imports of 10,000 to 12,000 in recent years. Current oil requirements are being met from domestic crushings. Most of the imports probably will be from India, although some probably will come from the Netherlands.

URUGUAYAN FLAXSEED ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Uruguayan flaxseed plantings in 1959 for harvest in late 1959 and early 1960 were 154,640 acres, according to the first official estimate. This is roughly one-half the 291,680 acres planted in 1958 and about one-third the 414,535 acres planted in 1957.

Per unit yields are expected to be lower than average this year.

With an average yield of 9.7 bushels per planted acre in 1958-59, production totaled 2.8 million bushels.

1959 TURKISH DRIED FIG PACK LARGER

Turkey's 1959 dried fig pack is estimated at 39,000 short tons, a 4,000-ton increase from the 1958 crop.

Disposition of the 1959 pack is estimated as follows: exports of 19,000 tons of whole dried figs and 4,500 tons of fig paste; 5,500 tons for industrial use; and 10,000 tons for domestic consumption.

European demand for whole dried figs is reported to be unusually strong, as Turkish currency devaluation has made prices attractive to European buyers. Major increases in French purchases are also credited to French liberalization.

U. S. imports of fig paste in 1959-60 are expected to be between 1,600 and 2,200 tons; demand is reported to be weak because of the large shipments taken in 1958-59. Turkish fig paste packers are said to be asking $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, c.i.f. New York, an increase of 1 cent per pound from prices reported earlier this season.

CUBAN FIRM TO INSTALL "COLD"
OIL EXTRACTION PLANTS

A \$720,000 contract was signed early this month in Havana between a West German firm and a Cuban firm for 6 "cold" oil extraction plants to be constructed in Cuba, according to a press report. The first plant reportedly will be installed early this year.

The plants are said to be able to crush a variety of oil-bearing materials and to have combination machines for producing vegetable oils, margarine, and mayonnaise. Oilcake obtained after the oil has been extracted by the "cold" system is reported to be suitable for use in such foods as cereals and flour. There are only one or two small plants of this type in the United States.

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